



**TOWN OF ARLINGTON
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
FUNDING APPLICATION
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**



ALL PROPOSALS MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH AND ADDRESS THE
CONSOLIDATED PLAN OBJECTIVES OUTLINED IN THIS HANDBOOK

DEADLINE

4:00 PM, Thursday, January 16, 2020

WHERE

Email the grant application and required attachments to:

bnichols@town.arlington.ma.us

If you do not receive an email confirmation after sending your application, contact Brian Nichols.

SUBMISSION DIRECTIONS

1. Open the file
2. Click "Save As"
3. Rename file, "CDBG, PROJECT NAME, YOUR ORGANIZATION NAME, 2020-2021"
4. Save to your computer

YOU MUST SAVE THIS DOCUMENT TO ENSURE IT IS NOT LOST

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- CDBG Grant Application
- One (1) copy: 501(c)(3) Letter of Tax Determination Status from the IRS (*if applicable*)
- One (1) copy: Agency's most recent financial audit
- One (1) copy; MA Certificate of Good Standing

OPTIONAL SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

- Letters of Support
- Resumes, brochures, newspaper articles, or other marketing materials

For help completing this year's application, office hours will be held in the first floor conference room in the Town Hall Annex on Thursday, December 19th from 5:30-6:30pm.

Failure to provide complete application and supporting documentation may result in a rejected application.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT:

Brian Nichols, Community Development
Department of Planning and Community Development
Town of Arlington
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3431

bnichols@town.arlington.ma.us

Town of Arlington
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

December 9, 2019

Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for funding through the Town of Arlington's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. CDBG is a program of HUD and was created in 1974 as part of Title I of HCD ACT of 1974, as amended. The primary objective of Title I is the development of viable urban communities. These viable communities are achieved by providing the following, principally for persons who make a low-and moderate-income:

- Decent housing;
- A suitable living environment; and
- Expanded economic opportunities

This federal funding provides opportunities to improve the lives of our fellow residents. As a town, through a 5-year consolidated plan, we are focused on the following activities:

- Affordable Housing
- Economic Development
- Public Facilities, Infrastructure and Parks
- Public Services
- Planning and Administration

Year 46 2020-2021 CDBG Application Timeline – REVISED 12/19/2019	
December 9, 2019	Application released and available online at https://www.arlingtonma.gov/departments/planning-community-development/community-development-block-grants-cdbg
December 19, 5:30-6:30pm	Office hours for application assistance will be held at the Town Hall Annex 1 st Floor Conference Room.
January 16, 2020 at 4:00pm	Applications Due
January 27, 2020	Select Board meeting and public hearing on CDBG application submissions. Applicants are invited to update the board on FY19 activities and preview of application for FY20.
February 2020	CDBG Subcommittee will meet to discuss CDBG applications and make recommendations.
March 2020	Funding recommendations presented to Select Board for approval and vote to recommend Town Meeting endorsement.
April 2020	Funding recommendation to be voted on at Town Meeting.

Please utilize the following pages as a guide while filling out the application. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your participation in making Arlington a better place for all to live, learn, work, and play.

Sincerely,

Brian Nichols
Community Development

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible Applicants

Funds are available to for-profit and non-profit corporations and organizations. All subrecipients receiving federal funds must register with Dunn and Bradstreet to obtain a DUNS number. To find information on how to obtain a DUNS number please visit the following website: <http://www.dnb.com/get-a-duns-number.html>. Completing this registration process is free, but may take up to 10+ days to complete. A DUNS number is required as part of this year's application. No awards will be made without this information.

The System for Award Management, or SAM.gov keeps track of organizations that are and are not debarred from receiving federal funding. CDBG recipients are required to be registered in this system. If your organization is not yet registered, please make sure to do so immediately.

Grant Program Description & Eligible Activities

The Town of Arlington is requesting proposals for Program Year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 for funding from the:

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: The CDBG program provides grants for activities whose principal beneficiaries are households that make a low- to moderate- income, specifically at or below 80% of the area median income. The goals of the program are to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing, a suitable living environment, and to expand economic opportunities.

Applicants may apply for funds to support the Consolidated Plan Goals and Objectives, listed on Page 7.

Encouraging Collaborations

The intent of a collaborative is to help increase the efficiency in service delivery, improve the value of data reported, improve the ability to analyze the level of unmet needs, increase capacity of programs, and reduce the reporting burden of the grant programs.

Any questions concerning proposal requirements, corrections, modifications or withdrawal can be directed to the Town of Arlington at 781-316-3431. Community Development Program Manager, Brian Nichols, will provide technical assistance to all applicants upon request.

GRANT EVALUATION CRITERIA

The CDBG Subcommittee will use the following criteria to evaluate proposals and make funding recommendations. In order to be considered for funding, a proposed activity must, at minimum, be eligible for funding according to HUD's regulations by meeting at least one of HUD's National Objectives, and address at least one goal of the Town of Arlington Consolidated Plan, (Note: draft plan to be finalized by December 20, 2019), which can be found under CDBG on the Town of Arlington's Planning and Community Development page. Application, including Budget Description, must also be complete.

Comparative Criteria Categories	Highly Advantageous (HA)	Advantageous (A)	Not Advantageous (NA)
1. Community Need Does the proposed project address a pressing or significant need in the town of Arlington and demonstrated familiarity with said need? Project goals should be consistent with the Priority Need categories identified in the 5-Year Consolidated Plan	Applicant can demonstrate comprehension of said need, and that the proposed project meets a new or growing need in the community that is either not being met or is underserved by other programs.	Applicant can demonstrate familiarity with said need, and that the proposed project meets an existing need in the community.	It is unclear from the application if the applicant has comprehension of said need, or if the proposed project meets an unmet community need.
2. Resources & Capacity Does the organization have the appropriate level of experienced staff and resources to execute the proposed project and the aptitude to meet the need?	Applicant has had experience with other projects similar to the one proposed and can demonstrate strong staff/resource levels capable of successfully implementing the proposed project.	Applicant has had some experience with other projects similar to the one proposed and has adequate staff/resources capable of completing the proposed project.	Applicant has limited experience with projects similar to the one proposed and it is unclear from the application if there is adequate staff capacity to complete the proposed project.
3. Encouraging Partnerships Does the proposed project involve new or existing partnerships with other service providers in the community?	Applicant and/or proposed activity will encourage new partnerships as a result of the project.	Applicant will utilize existing partnerships to complete the proposed project.	Proposed project does not encourage partnerships.
4. Cost Benefit How does the cost of the proposed project compare to its proposed output and outcome accomplishments?	Proposed project yields a low cost-benefit ratio comparable to similar programs.	Proposed project yields neither a low cost-benefit ratio, nor a high cost-benefit ratio comparable to similar programs.	Proposed project yields a high cost-benefit ratio comparable to similar programs.
5. Leveraged Funds Has the organization secured additional funding sources or in-kind support to cover the proposed project?	Applicant has demonstrated the capability of leveraging funds or in-kind support to cover 50% or more of the proposed project costs. The majority of these leveraged funds are committed.	Applicant has demonstrated the capability of leveraging funds or in-kind support to cover some of the project costs.	Applicant has identified few to no additional funds/ in-kind support to cover the proposed project OR the majority of leveraged funds/ in-kind support identified are pending.
6. Self Sufficiency Will the proposed project be self-sufficient and no longer require CDBG funding after one year? After a few years?	Applicant is making a one-time request for funds and has demonstrated that the project is capable of becoming self-sufficient beyond one year of seed-funding.	Applicant has demonstrated that the project is capable of becoming self-sufficient within 2-3 years.	Applicant is attempting to achieve self-sufficiency but anticipates requesting additional funds beyond the next three years.
7. New Public Services Program Is the proposed project offering a new service and is it available from any other providers in the community?	The proposed project offers a new service not provided elsewhere in the Town.	The applicant is seeking funding for a new project or quantifiable increase in level of an existing service.	The proposed project received a CDBG grant in the previous year, is not a new service, and does not propose an increase in the level of an existing service.

PERFORMANCE AND OUTCOME MEASUREMENT

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires recipients of federal funds to assess the productivity and impact of their programs. In response, the Town of Arlington has implemented a Performance and Outcome Measurement System. This system will help to quantify the effectiveness of programs and establish clearly defined outcomes. All proposals must demonstrate how they would perform using this system, should they receive funding.

Please note the following definitions specific to this system as you prepare your application

Inputs – Resources dedicated to or consumed by the program such as money, staff, equipment, and supplies.

Major Activities – Identify the major activities to be conducted by this project (e.g. client outreach/assessment, job training, affordable child care, information/referral, counseling/case-management, etc.)

Outputs – Quantifiable products of the project or the direct products of program activities, such as the number of clients who will be assisted, number of clients who will receive a referral and be helped, number of persons trained, number of children in the program, etc. Outputs may indicate that the project or program is completed but do not indicate whether the project or program will result in the intended impacts (outcomes). In the examples above outputs might be families participating in the project to increase awareness of child care programs, number of architectural barriers removed, or the number of students participating in the tutorial program.

Outcomes – Benefits to participants during or after participating in the program (program results). The outcome should answer the questions: What will be the benefits for the client? And/or why is this project being done? Outcomes typically relate to a change in conditions, status, attitudes, knowledge, or behavior. Examples of outcomes include number of families receiving free or subsidized child care as a result of a project to increase awareness of available programs, number of additional persons with disabilities using a facility as a result of the removal of architectural barriers, number of students achieving a higher grade due to a tutorial program, etc. (Note: Applicants should only include the major project outcomes supported by the requested program funds.)

Outcome Measurement – Methods of measuring outcomes. Identify plans to follow-up/track projects and evaluate a project's impact on participants to ensure that outcomes are met.

Please note: HUD has encouraged grantees to incorporate performance-based standards in project selection and contracting with consolidated plan funds. As a result, for the 2020-2021 program year the Town of Arlington will draft contracts which relate reimbursement specifically to accomplishments. Where possible, the focus will be on outcome accomplishments rather than output accomplishments. For example, a homebuyer assistance program might be reimbursed based on the number of participants who actually purchase homes successfully as opposed to the number of people who attend trainings or inquire about available down payment assistance. In this example, if the subrecipient received \$10,000 and proposed to help 10 families purchase homes, a performance-based reimbursement system would allow them to invoice for \$1,000 for each family that purchases a home. All reimbursement requests will still require documentation as prescribed in the appropriate federal regulations and town policies. Both HUD and the Town of Arlington understand that this type of contracting will not easily fit for some projects, however when it is possible, the Town will prefer to structure contracts in this manner, so please formulate your proposed projects to work with a performance-based contract system.

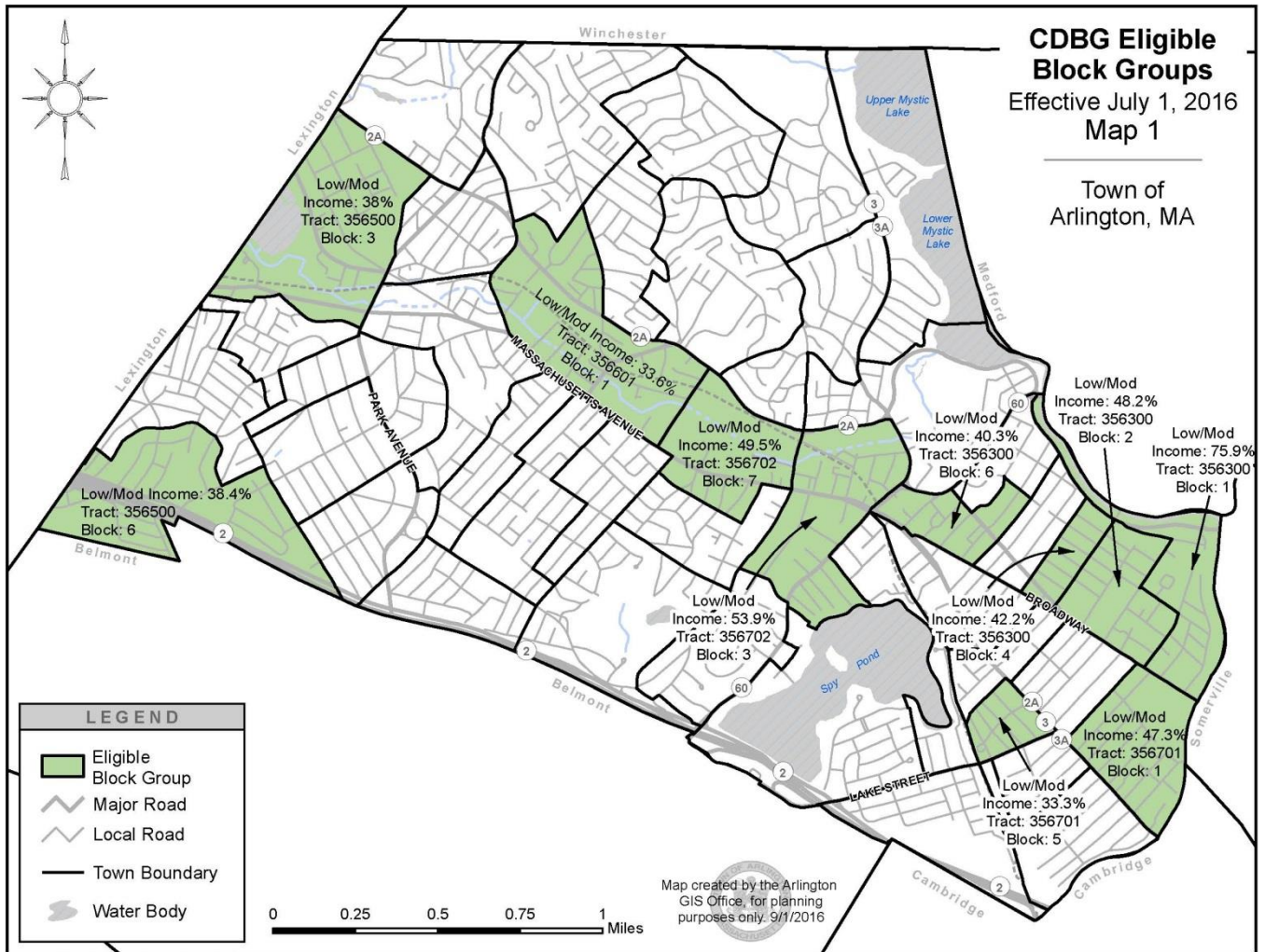
When providing outcome/outputs on the attached application, please consider a number reasonable enough for you to achieve based on the amount of federal funds requested.

MEASURING ACCOMPLISHMENTS TABLE EXAMPLE

GOAL	INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
Proposed goals to reduce extent of problems or needs	Resources to be dedicated or utilized to meet proposed goals	What the program does with the input to fulfill its mission	Direct products of program activities	ST (Short Term) LT (Long Term) Benefits that result from the program
Improve the grades, self-esteem, study habits and social skills and discipline of at risk students from households that make a low- to moderate-income.	Staff Director Staff: one volunteer tutor per 2 students Staff: one volunteer teacher or resource person per 5 students Public Facilities: one meeting room PF: Kitchen PF: Gym Cooking utensils and supplies, board games, sports equipment and arts and crafts materials	The program consists of one-hour tutorial and one-hour enrichment program offered MWF btw. 3 and 5 PM. The tutorial component focuses on completion of homework assignments and preparation for quizzes or tests. The enrichment component gives students the choice of participating in sports activities in the gym, board game, cooking, or arts and crafts.	20 students from low-mod households assisted with homework and other school work 20 students from low-mod households participating in enrichment programs	1. Increased number of homework assignments completed and submitted on time (ST) 2. Improved attendance and tardiness (ST) 3. Increased class participation (ST) 4. Improved grade point averages (LT) 5. Improved study habits (LT) 6. Improved discipline and social skills (LT) 7. Enhanced self-esteem and trusting relationship with adults (LT)

PROJECT/ACTIVITY SERVICE AREA

If you check the first box, “Low/Moderate Income Area Benefit (LMA)”, under Determining Eligibility on page 1 in part II of the CDBG application, please fill in the census tract and block of the activity for which you are applying. If you are unsure of the census tract/s that is/are served by your project or activity, visit the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) website <http://www.ffiec.gov/Geocode/default.aspx> and type in the address.



The table below outlines the priority need categories that HUD has found to be eligible to be supported with Consolidated Plan program funds. Below each goal are the high and medium priority objectives. Relative priorities were established through the development process of the Town's 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan (Note: draft plan to be finalized by December 20, 2019). A core component of the public outreach in preparing for this plan was to prioritize among the many community needs given the limited amount of funding available through the CDBG program. In general, the plan prioritizes economic development growth initiatives such as business development and small business training, the creation and preservation of affordable housing, and self-sufficiency programs. Proposed projects and programs must address at least one of the following objectives:

TOWN OF ARLINGTON CONSOLIDATED PLAN ACTIVITIES & OBJECTIVES

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Objectives

- Improve Access to and Stability of Affordable Housing
- Improve the Condition of Existing Housing
- Acquisition for Rehabilitation
- Energy Efficiency Improvements

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Objectives

- Micro Enterprise Assistance

PUBLIC FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND PARKS

Objectives

- Enhance Public Facilities, Infrastructure and Parks
- Flood Drainage Improvements
- Improve Neighborhood Facilities

PUBLIC SERVICES

Objectives

- Increase Access to Jobs, Education, Transportation and Other Services

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

- Planning and Administration
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